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Course: E121 (MTA+FINAL-Literary Terms)

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♥ [MTA Literary Terms] ♥

1. **Characters:** a character is the main person in the story. Most of the time, our main attention is drawn to the main character (protagonist) and the other character that is in a clash with the protagonist is called (antagonist). In “Dead Men’s Path”, the protagonist is Mr. Obi, and the antagonist is Ani the priest.
 - **Flat (static)** characters which means characters who are not able to change or develop throughout the story.
 - **Round (dynamic)** characters which means characters who are able to change and can be developed gradually throughout the story. **For instance,** in “A Handful of Dates” the boy is a round character because he was able to change at the end of the story.

2. **Protagonist:** A protagonist is the central character in a story, often the main character with whom the audience or reader empathizes and follows throughout the narrative. **For example,** in "Dead Men's Path" by Chinua Achebe, the protagonist is Michael Obi. He is the newly appointed headmaster of Ndume Central School, and the story revolves around his attempts to modernize the school and the subsequent clash with the villagers over their traditional beliefs. The challenges faced by Michael Obi contribute to the development of the narrative and its exploration of cultural conflicts.

3. **Antagonist:** is a character or force in a story that opposes the protagonist, creating conflict. **For example,** in “Dead Men’s Path”, the protagonist is Mr. Obi, and the antagonist is Ani the priest.

4. **Setting:** refers to time and place of the events of the story, it includes social conditions (rural, urban, bourgeois, rich, poor, war...etc.), weather conditions, (rainy, sunny, stormy, etc.), atmosphere and mood (bright, cheerful, sad, gloomy, gothic, scary, romantic...etc.). The setting is created to shed light on the theme of the story. It can sometimes be the centre of the story. **For example,** in “A Handful of Dates” by Tayeb Saleh, the events take place in the fictional setting of the village of Wad Hamid, which is in Central Sudan, close to the Nile. OR
 - **Setting:** Setting in literature refers to the time and place in which a story takes place. It includes the physical location, time period, social environment, and atmospheric conditions. **EX....**

5. **Plot:** refers to the arrangement of the events in the story. What happens in a story and in what order. It is planned and logical and it has a beginning, middle, and end.

The traditional story follows a pattern that has :

A. **Exposition:** details of setting and characters is revealed.

B. **Rising actions:** the build-up of events (complexities).

C. **Climax:** is the highest point of the story.

D. **Falling actions:** events that happen after the climax where problems start to be solved.

E. **Resolution:** the end and outcome of the story. All plots must have a conflict, either external (with another human being, nature or society) or internal (conflict within the self). **OR**

• **Plot:** Plot is the sequence of events that make up the main story in a work of fiction. **For example, in "A Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih, the plot involves the protagonist's recollection of a childhood incident.** The narrative unfolds as he reflects on events, such as witnessing his grandfather's treatment of a poor man and explores the impact of these experiences on his understanding of morality and societal dynamics. The plot revolves around the protagonist's reflections and the emotional and moral dilemmas he faces.

6. **Climax:** The climax is the highest point of tension or turning point in a narrative, often where the main character faces a critical decision or confronts a major challenge. **For example, in "Dead Men's Path" by Chinua Achebe, the climax occurs when the main character, Michael Obi, clashes with the villagers over his modernizing changes to the sacred path.** This conflict reaches its peak as the villagers retaliate, leading to a dramatic and impactful turning point in the story. **OR**

• **Turning point:** in literature it is a crucial moment that significantly impacts the direction of the plot or the characters involved. **For example, in "A Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih, a turning point occurs when the protagonist witnesses his grandfather's actions during the incident with the well.** This moment becomes pivotal, challenging the protagonist's perception of morality and societal norms, and it marks a shift in his understanding of the world around him. **OR**

• **Turning point:** in the structure of a play, the climax, or crisis. It is the decisive moment, or turning point, at which the rising action of the play is reversed to falling action. It may or may not coincide with the highest point of interest in the drama.

7. **Point of View:** is the angle from which a story is told:

- **First person point of view:** the story is told by one of the characters in the story. It allows readers to see the events through the eyes of one character. This narration style is told through the use of I or We. **For example, the narrator in "A Handful of Dates" is a first-person point of view.**

- **Omniscient narrator:** the narrator knows everything about all the characters. He has unlimited access to the characters' minds and thoughts.

- **Limited third person:** knows only what the audience can see and hear. This view grants a writer more freedom than first person, but less than third person omniscient. **For example, in Dead Men's Path, the limited third-person point of view allows the reader to gain insight into Michael Obi's perspective, beliefs, and motivations, but it doesn't provide a comprehensive understanding of all the characters and their inner thoughts.** The narrator's knowledge is restricted to what can be inferred from Michael Obi's actions, words, and thoughts. **OR**

- **Point of view:** Point of view refers to the perspective from which a narrative is presented. It encompasses the vantage point and narrative style through which the story is conveyed. **For example, in "A Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih, the point of view is first person.** The narrator, who is also the protagonist, provides the account of the events, feelings, and thoughts from his personal perspective. This choice of point of view allows readers to directly engage with the narrator's experiences and reflections on the childhood incident, creating a more intimate connection with the character.

8. **Narrator:** A narrator is the person or entity who tells the story in a literary work or a narrative. The narrator may be a character within the story (first-person narrator) or an external observer (third-person narrator). **EX..... OR**

- **NARRATOR** A narrator is the person telling the story, and it determines the point of view that the audience will experience. The narrator can take many forms—it may be a character inside the story (like the protagonist) telling it from his/her own point of view. It may be a completely neutral observer or witness sharing what he/she sees and experiences. It may be someone who is outside the story but has access to characters' thoughts and feelings. **First person narrator/ second person narrator/ third person narrator. EX..... OR**

- **NARRATOR** The narrator is one who tells a story. In a work of fiction, the narrator determines the story's point of view. If the narrator is a full participant in the story's action, the narrative is said to be in **the first person**. A story told by a narrator who is not a character in the story is a **third person narrative. EX..... OR**

For example, in "A Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih, the narrator reflects on a childhood incident where he experiences a moral dilemma. This event shapes the narrator's understanding of morality and the complexities of human relationships.

9. **Omniscient narrator:** An omniscient narrator is a narrative point of view where the storyteller has knowledge of all the characters' thoughts, feelings, and events in the story. This perspective provides a comprehensive and all-knowing view, allowing the narrator to reveal information beyond what any single character knows. **OR**

• **Omniscient Narrator:**

Omniscient narration refers to a narrator who has complete knowledge of all characters' thoughts, feelings, and actions within a story. While none of the stories in question employ full omniscience, "**Dead Men's Path**" comes closest with its third-person limited perspective, which occasionally shifts into different characters' viewpoints. **For example**, the narrative briefly reveals Nancy's inner thoughts and dreams, contrasting them with the existing realities of the village. In contrast, the other two stories use first-person narrators, restricting the audience to a single character's perspective and limiting insight into other figures' motivations.

10. ♥ **Theme:** is the main idea or the moral of the story. The theme reveals the meaning of the story. **For example:** The theme of family, death, education, etc. In Dead Men's Path, the major theme was the conflict between traditional Nigerian culture and beliefs and the modern westernized ideology established by European colonialism. **OR**

♥ **Theme:** A theme in literature is a central idea or underlying message that a work conveys. **For example**, in "Dead Men's Path" by Chinua Achebe, one prominent theme is the clash of traditional and modern beliefs. The story explores the consequences of a young headmaster's rigid adherence to modern practices, disregarding the cultural significance of an ancient path. This clash highlights the broader theme of the importance of respecting and understanding different cultural perspectives.

11. **Foreshadow:** is a literary device that writers use as a means to indicate or hint to readers something that is to follow or appear later in a story. **For example**, in "Dead Men's Path," the protagonist Michael Obi's initial intentions to modernize the school and surrounding grounds, including blocking the path that passes through the school's compound, foreshadow the conflict between him and the villagers. **Also, in the play "The Doll's House"**, Nora secretly eating macaroons against Torvald's wishes foreshadows her rebellion against his control. This small act of defiance symbolizes her suppressed independence and hints at the larger break from societal norms she will make by the end of the play.

12. ♥ **Juxtaposition:** The placement of two contrasting ideas, characters, or settings side by side to emphasize their differences or create meaning. “Dead Men’s Path” juxtaposes modern school structures with ancient village paths. “A Handful of Dates” contrasts the lush date harvest with the grandfather’s spiritual poverty. These stark contrasts underscore each story’s central themes, using visual and conceptual opposition to make abstract conflicts concrete and emotionally resonant.
13. **Conflict:** is the basic issue that leads to all other complications. There are basically two sorts of conflict: External conflict (Man versus man, Man Versus nature, Man versus society); or Internal conflict (Man versus himself). **For example, in Achebe’s “Dead Men’s Path”, there is an external conflict between Mr. Obi and the villagers, and an internal conflict between Obi’s dreams and the truth.**
14. **Identification:** it refers to the audience identifying with a fictional character; however, it can also be employed as a narrative device whereby one character identifies with another character within the text itself. **For example, in Dead Men’s Path, some readers may identify with Michael Obi, the young headmaster who is eager to modernize the school and improve its standing.** They may relate to his desire for progress and his initial lack of understanding of the cultural traditions of the community. While others may identify with the villagers who deeply value their cultural traditions and beliefs. They may understand the villagers' frustration and resistance to the changes imposed by Michael Obi.
15. **Irony:** is a literary device in which contradictory statements or situations reveal a reality that is different from what appears to be true. **For instance, in “Dead Men’s Path”, the tragic conclusion of the story is ironic.** Michael Obi's intent was to bring progress to the school and community, but his actions result in a tragic event, highlighting the unexpected and negative consequences of his modernization efforts. **OR**
- **Irony:** is a literary device where there is a discrepancy between what is said and what is meant, what is expected to happen and what actually occurs, or between appearance and reality. **For example, in "Dead Men's Path" by Chinua Achebe, there is situational irony in the clash between Michael Obi's modern educational ideas and the traditional beliefs of the villagers.** Despite Obi's efforts to improve the school, his actions lead to unintended consequences, creating a situation where the outcome is different from what he expected.

16. **Sarcasm:** is a literary device that uses irony to mock someone or something or convey contempt. Sarcasm can also be defined as the use of words that mean the opposite of what the speaker or writer intends, especially to insult or show irritation with someone, or to amuse others. **OR**

• **Sarcasm:** is a form of verbal irony where someone says something but means the opposite, often with a mocking or scornful tone. **An example of sarcasm in "Dead Men's Path" occurs when the village priest responds to Michael Obi's statement about modernization.** When Obi expresses his desire to "build a modern school with a bright future," the priest sarcastically remarks, "Bright indeed! We shall all wait to see this wonderful brightness." The sarcasm in this instance reflects the priest's doubt and disapproval of Obi's modernization efforts, suggesting a skepticism about the perceived benefits.

17. **Humor:** Humor is a form of entertainment that elicits laughter and amusement, often through wit, irony, or comedic elements. **For example, in "A Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih, the humor is more subdued, focusing on the contrast between the innocence of the young narrator and the complexities of the adult world.** **For example,** the narrator's naive perceptions and reactions to the events around him may elicit a sense of irony and amusement as readers recognize the disparity between his understanding and the reality portrayed in the story. **OR**

• **Humor:** is a literary tool that makes audiences laugh, or that intends to induce amusement or laughter. Its purpose is to break the monotony and boredom.

18. ♥ **Epiphany:** refers to a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization. It's a crucial, unexpected turning point in someone's life. It is the character's awareness that helps in his development. **For instance, the young boy in "A Handful of Dates" had an epiphany after realizing that his grandfather is the abuser.** **OR**

♥ **Epiphany:** is a moment of sudden realization or insight, often triggered by a common experience or observation. It leads to a deeper understanding or clarity about a situation, idea, or oneself. **For example, in "A Handful of Dates," the epiphany occurs when the narrator, as a child, realizes the societal disparities and the harshness of his grandfather's actions towards the poor man.** This revelation marks a profound moment of understanding, challenging the narrator's previous innocence and shaping his perception of morality and social dynamics.

19. ♥ **Flashback:** is when writing a work of fiction, an author can take the reader out of the present story and jump into an earlier time period in a character's life. Flashbacks give a story more depth by revealing details that help readers understand character motives. Flashbacks also add tension and help advance the plot. The writer in Handful of Dates recalled in many occasions events from his childhood. **OR**

♥ **Flashback:** is a narrative device where a scene or event from the past is interjected into the current timeline of a story, providing additional context or background information. **For example, in "A Handful of Dates," there is a flashback to the narrator's childhood when he witnesses his grandfather's treatment of a poor man.** This flashback serves to reveal the roots of the narrator's moral conflict and sheds light on the shaping of his values and understanding of societal dynamics.

20. ♥ **Fiction [prose]:** Prose narratives that depict imaginary or fictional situations and characters, often exploring events, settings, themes and ideas about human experience. **EX.....**

Elements of fiction: (1character, 2plot, 3point of view, 4setting, 5theme, and 6style)

OR Fiction (prose):

This includes **novels, short stories, novellas, horror, fantasy, and fairy tales** that are imaginative or invented narratives. Fictional works may explore a wide range of themes and settings, and they often reflect the human condition and experience. For example, **Cinderella / Harry Potter.**

21. Action:

The events or activities that take place in a story, driving the plot forward and revealing characters' decisions and behaviors. **In "Dead Men's Path,"** key actions include Obi's decision to block the ancestral path, the villagers' protests, and their eventual retaliation by tearing down the school's building and flowers. **In "A Handful of Dates,"** the action revolves around the date harvest, the grandfather's mocking remarks about Masood, and the boy's visceral reaction of vomiting—symbolizing his lost innocence. **"Letter from Gaza"** relies more on internal action, with the narrator's memories and reflections leading to his final decision to remain in Gaza. These actions shape the narratives, making the conflicts tangible and impactful.

22. Novel: A novel is a long work of fiction that tells a story of human experience through the use of interconnected characters, events, and themes. Novels typically explore complex narratives and are characterized by their length and depth of storytelling.

23. Dilemma: A dilemma is a situation in which a person is faced with a difficult choice between two conflicting options, both of which may have undesirable consequences. **For example, in "A Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih, the protagonist encounters a dilemma when he witnesses his grandfather's harsh treatment of a poor man.** The conflict arises as the protagonist grapples with the values he has been taught by his grandfather and his own emerging sense of empathy for the less fortunate. **OR**

- **Dilemma:** it is a conflict, problem, or situation with two possible solutions. When a dilemma occurs, a person has to make the difficult choice between two desirable options, or, contrastingly, two undesirable options.

24. Symbolism: it is a literary device that uses symbols especially by investing things with a symbolic meaning or by expressing the invisible or intangible by means of visible representations. **For example, in Letter from Gaza by Ghassan Kanafni, the severed leg of the narrator's niece, Nadia, symbolizes the physical and emotional cost of the Palestinian struggle.** It reflects the deep scars left by war, not just on individuals but on the collective spirit of people.

25. Suspense: is an uneasy feeling that a reader gets when they don't know what is going to happen next. A writer creates suspense through a controlled release of information to readers that raises key questions and makes readers eager, but terrified, to find out what happens. **For example: The central source of suspense is Nora's forgery of her father's signature to secure a loan.** The audience knows her secret will have severe consequences if revealed, creating an underlying tension throughout the play.

26. Style: refers to the author's choices of words (diction), their sentence structure (syntax) and their use of figurative language (symbolism, imagery and metaphor). It also denotes the use of descriptive language, monologues, dialogues, etc.

27. Genre: According to Oxford English Dictionary, genre is "A particular style or category of works of art; esp. a type of literary work characterized by a particular form, style, or purpose." The term genre usually refers to one of the three literary forms of fiction, drama, or poetry. The major literary genres are fiction, poetry, drama and non-fiction-fiction prose. **OR**

- **Genre:** refers to a category or type of artistic, literary, or musical composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content. **For example, Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih is a short story, and it falls into the fiction genre.** It is a literary work that tells a fictional narrative, exploring themes and characters within a condensed format.

28. Short Story: A short story is a brief work of fiction that typically focuses on a single plot, theme, or character. It aims to convey a complete narrative in a condensed form. **For example, in "A Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih, suspense is skillfully crafted as the protagonist recalls childhood events, keeping readers on edge about the significance of certain actions and their potential consequences.** The story builds tension from the narrator's perspective, leaving the audience eager to discover the full impact of past events. **OR**

- **Short story:** refers to a brief fictional prose narrative shorter than a novel usually dealing with a few characters and aiming at unity of effect.

29. Round Character: are fully developed figures with complex traits, emotions, and motivations, making them feel realistic and multidimensional. In **"Dead Men's Path"**, Michael Obi is portrayed as a round character through his conflicting ambition and cultural ignorance, while **"A Handful of Dates"** explores the boy's nuanced moral awakening. Similarly, in **Ghassan Kanafani's Letter from Gaza**, the narrator emerges as a round character through his layered reflections on loss, resilience, and identity.

30. Anti Climax: An anticlimax is a literary device or narrative structure where the resolution of a plot is less intense or dramatic than what was expected, leading to a letdown or disappointment in the audience's anticipation. **OR**

- **Anti-climax:**

A moment in the narrative where tension or excitement diminishes unexpectedly, leading to a less impactful outcome. **"Dead Men's Path" ends on an anti-climax:** after the villagers destroy the school, the story concludes with a dry, bureaucratic report from Obi's white supervisor, stripping the event of emotional weight. **"A Handful of Dates"** avoids anti-climax by ending on a strong symbolic moment (the boy's disgust). **"Letter from Gaza"** also does not use anti-climax, as the narrator's decision to stay is deeply poignant. Anti-climax can be a deliberate stylistic choice, as in "Dead Men's Path," to emphasize the futility of Obi's actions.

31. Resolution: In literature, resolution is the point in the plot where the central conflict is resolved, and the story reaches its conclusion. **For example, in "Dead Men's Path" by Chinua Achebe, the resolution occurs as Michael Obi, the protagonist, experiences the consequences of his actions and recognizes the importance of understanding and respecting the villagers' traditions.** The resolution brings closure to the clash between modernity and tradition, highlighting the impact of cultural understanding and the need for harmony between different ways of life.

♥ [Final Literary Terms] ♥

1. Acts and Scenes:

Definition: Acts and scenes are structural divisions in a play. Acts are larger sections that organize the narrative, while scenes are smaller subdivisions within acts, often marking changes in time, location, or focus. These divisions help guide the audience through the progression of the story.

Example: In *A Doll's House*, the play is divided into three acts. Act 1 introduces Nora's seemingly happy domestic life and her secret about borrowing money. Act 2 focuses on escalating tension as Nora struggles to keep her secret while facing pressure from Krogstad. Act 3 culminates in Nora's decision to leave her family, marking a dramatic turning point that challenges societal norms and expectations.

2. Alliteration:

Definition: Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in closely placed words to create rhythm, emphasis, or mood. It often enhances the musicality of a poem or draws attention to specific ideas.

Example: In "**H**arlem," Langston Hughes uses alliteration with phrases like "**d**ream **d**eferred" to emphasize the central theme of unfulfilled aspirations. The repeated "d" sound creates a rhythmic quality that mirrors the frustration and urgency of deferred dreams. **OR**

Alliteration: Repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of close words. **For example, in "In an Artist's Studio", alliteration is used in the sound /s/, in the words "selfsame" and "sits".**

3. Atmosphere:

Definition: Atmosphere refers to the overall emotional feeling or mood created by a work's setting, imagery, and tone. It sets the emotional backdrop for the narrative and influences how readers or audiences experience the story.

Example: In *A Doll's House*, the atmosphere shifts from cozy domesticity at the beginning to tense and oppressive as Nora confronts her lack of freedom. The initial warmth of the Helmer home contrasts with the coldness of Torvald's controlling behavior, creating an atmosphere that mirrors Nora's emotional journey. **OR**

- **Atmosphere:** refers to the overall feeling or mood created by the setting, the environment, and the characters' actions in a story. It is closely related to mood but often refers more specifically to how the physical surroundings and tone contribute to the emotional experience of the reader or audience.

4. Catharsis:

Definition: Catharsis is the process of releasing strong emotions, like fear, sadness, or anger, in a way that brings relief or healing. It often happens through activities like crying, talking about feelings, or experiencing art, such as movies or music, that help express deep emotions.

Example (*Romeo and Juliet*): In *Romeo and Juliet*, catharsis occurs at the play's tragic ending when the young lovers take their own lives. This heartbreaking moment evokes deep sorrow and emotional release, as it highlights the devastating consequences of fate, miscommunication, and family conflict, ultimately leading to reconciliation between the Montagues and Capulets. **OR**

- **Catharsis:** is the feeling of **emotional release or relief** that the audience experiences after watching something intense, like a tragedy. It happens when the story makes you feel strong emotions, such as sadness or fear, and then you feel cleansed or lighter afterward because those emotions have been expressed. **For example:** "In *A Doll's House*", the audience might feel catharsis at the end when Nora decides to leave her husband and children. It's a sad moment, but also a powerful one because she chooses freedom and self-discovery. The audience feels pity for her struggles and relief that she's taking control of her life. This mix of emotions helps the audience process their own feelings about societal roles and personal freedom.

5. Comedy:

Definition: Comedy is a genre of literature that uses humor or satire and often ends happily, focusing on human flaws in a lighthearted way. Comedies typically explore themes such as love, social norms, or human folly with an optimistic tone.

Example (*Twelfth Night*): William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* is a comedy that uses humor, mistaken identities, and satire to explore themes of love and social norms. The play ends happily with multiple marriages and reconciliations, embodying the lighthearted and optimistic tone typical of the genre. **OR**

- **Comedy:** is a genre of dramatic performance having a light or humorous tone that depicts amusing incidents and in which the characters ultimately triumph over adversity. For ancient Greeks and Romans, a comedy was a stage-play with a happy ending.

6. Couplets:

Definition: Couplets are two consecutive lines of poetry that often rhyme and share the same meter, creating rhythm and unity within a poem. They can emphasize key ideas or provide closure to a stanza or section.

Example: In Rossetti's "In an Artist's Studio," couplets are used to create a flowing rhythm while critiquing the artist's obsession with his muse. The paired lines emphasize the repetitive nature of his fixation, mirroring how he views his subject as static rather than dynamic.

7. Dialogue:

Definition: Dialogue refers to spoken exchanges between characters in a play or narrative that reveal their thoughts, emotions, and relationships. It is a key element in drama for advancing plot and developing characters.

Example: In *A Doll's House*, dialogue between Nora and Torvald exposes their unequal dynamic. For instance, Torvald's patronizing language ("my little lark") highlights his controlling attitude, while Nora's increasingly assertive tone reveals her growing dissatisfaction with her role. **OR**

- **Dialogue:** It is a literary technique in which a conversation between two or more characters occurs, or a speech that is written down as part of a piece of narrative text. **For example,** in Henrik Ibsen "The Doll's House", the readers get the information from the dialogues between the characters.

8. Diction:

Definition: Diction refers to an author or poet's choice of words and phrases to convey meaning, tone, or mood effectively. It shapes how readers interpret characters, themes, and emotions within a work.

Example 1: Hughes' diction in "Harlem," such as "fester" and "explode," conveys frustration and anger about deferred dreams. These strong verbs evoke vivid imagery and emotional intensity, emphasizing the destructive consequences of unrealized aspirations.

Example 2 ("In an Artist's Studio"): Rossetti uses terms like "feeds upon" to depict the artist's consuming obsession and "not as she is, but as she fills his dream" to contrast idealized portrayals with the model's suppressed reality.

9. Drama:

Definition: Drama is a genre of literature intended for performance on stage, combining dialogue and action to tell a story. It often explores complex human emotions and conflicts through character interactions.

Example (*A Doll's House*): Ibsen's play is a drama that examines themes of gender roles, societal expectations, and personal freedom through its characters' interactions. The tension between Nora's desires for independence and societal constraints drives much of the dramatic conflict. **OR**

• **Drama:** It is a form of text that is designed to be performed in front of an audience, it contains dialogues and stage directions. Drama has further categories like comedy and tragedy. An instance from this course's materials is "The Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen".

10. Enjambment:

Definition: Enjambment occurs when a sentence or phrase continues beyond the end of a line or stanza without a pause, creating a flowing rhythm in poetry that mirrors natural speech patterns or emphasizes certain ideas.

Example ("*Harlem*"): Hughes uses enjambment in lines like "Does it dry up / like a raisin in the sun?" This technique allows thoughts to spill over into the next line, emphasizing uncertainty about deferred dreams. **OR**

• **Enjambment:** A line having no end punctuation but running over to the next line. It is defined as a thought or clause that does not come to an end at a line break rather than moves over the next line. **EX....**

11. ♡ Feminism:

Definition: Feminism is an ideology advocating for gender equality by challenging traditional roles assigned to women in society. Feminist literature often critiques patriarchy and explores women's independence and empowerment.

Example (*A Doll's House*): Feminist themes are central to Ibsen's play as Nora challenges societal norms by asserting her independence from her husband and leaving her family—a bold act that defies traditional expectations for women during her time.

12. Gender:

Definition: Gender refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and norms associated with being male or female within a cultural context. Literature often explores how these roles shape characters' lives, identities, and relationships.

Example (*A Doll's House*): Gender roles are central to Ibsen's play, as Nora struggles against societal expectations that confine her to the roles of wife and mother. Torvald's patronizing treatment of Nora reflects the rigid gender norms of the time, while Nora's decision to leave challenges these conventions and asserts her individuality. **OR**

• **Gender:** refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviors and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. **EX....**

13. Free Verse:

Definition: Free verse is poetry with no rules about rhythm or rhyme. It sounds like natural speech, using line breaks and words creatively to express ideas. It allows poets flexibility in expressing ideas without formal constraints.

Example (“Harlem”): Hughes’ poem is written in free verse, allowing flexibility in structure while emphasizing its powerful message about racial inequality and deferred dreams. **OR**

• **Free Verse:** is a form of poetry that does not adhere to a regular meter or rhyme scheme. Unlike traditional poetic forms that have specific patterns of rhythm and rhyme, free verse allows poets greater flexibility and freedom in terms of line length, rhythm, and structure. In free verse, poets rely on natural speech patterns and the flow of thoughts and emotions, emphasizing creativity and expression without the constraints of predetermined rules.

14. ♥ Imagery:

Definition: Imagery involves descriptive language that appeals to the senses (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell) to create vivid mental pictures for readers. It helps evoke emotions and deepen understanding of themes.

Example 1 (“Harlem”): Hughes uses powerful imagery like “a raisin in the sun” and “a heavy load” to depict dreams that have been neglected or crushed over time. These images evoke sensory experiences that emphasize the decay and frustration of deferred aspirations.

Example 2 (“In an Artist’s Studio”): Rossetti uses visual imagery in descriptions like “A queen in opal or in ruby dress” and “Fair as the moon and joyful as the light” to highlight the artist’s idealized portrayals of the woman. **OR**

♥ Imagery:

- Imagery, on the other hand, refers to the collective use of images in a literary work.
- It involves the use of vivid and descriptive language that appeals to the senses, creating a rich and sensory experience for the reader.
- It contributes to the overall atmosphere, mood, and emotional impact of the work. A poem with vivid descriptions of landscapes, sounds, and emotions is said to have strong imagery. **For example, “In an Artist’s Studio”** has many instances where the poet uses visual, reflective, and emotional imagery.

15. ♥ Mood:

Definition: Mood refers to the emotional feeling evoked in readers by a literary work through setting, tone, diction, and imagery. It shapes how readers emotionally respond to the text.

Example 1 (“Harlem”): The mood of Hughes’ poem is tense and frustrated, reflecting the emotional weight of deferred dreams. The imagery of decay and explosion creates a sense of urgency and unease.

Example 2 (“In an Artist’s Studio”): The mood in Rossetti’s poem is melancholic and reflective, as it critiques the objectification of women through art. The repetition of imagery creates a sense of sadness and isolation. **OR**

♥ **Mood:** refers to the emotional atmosphere or feeling that a piece of literature creates for the reader or audience. It’s the emotion you experience while reading or watching the story unfold. The mood can shift throughout a work, depending on the events, the tone of the writing, and the emotions of the characters. **For example:** “In A Doll’s House”, the mood evolves from light and playful to tense and dramatic, ultimately becoming solemn and reflective.

16. Poetry:

Definition: Poetry is a literary form that uses rhythm, imagery, sound devices, and condensed language to express emotions or ideas creatively. It often relies on figurative language and structure to convey meaning.

Example 1 (“Harlem”): Hughes’ poem uses free verse and vivid imagery to explore themes of racial injustice and unfulfilled dreams. The lack of formal constraints allows him to emphasize the emotional intensity of his message.

Example 2 (“In an Artist’s Studio”): Rossetti’s poem uses structured rhyme and rhythm typical of sonnets to critique artistic obsession with beauty. **OR**

• **Poetry:** is a brief form of text written in lines and sometimes divided into stanzas (paragraphs). The language is more artistic and indirect in which the expression of feelings and ideas is given intensity by the use of distinctive style and rhythm. **Famous example of a poem: In an Artist’s Studio by Christina Rossetti.**

17. Refrain:

Definition: A refrain is a repeated line or phrase in a poem or song that serves as a chorus or emphasizes a central theme. It creates rhythm and reinforces key ideas.

Example (“Harlem”): While Hughes’ poem does not use a traditional refrain, the repeated question “What happens to a dream deferred?” acts as a thematic anchor throughout the poem, emphasizing its central concern about unrealized aspirations.

18. Realism:

Definition: Realism is a literary style that seeks to accurately depict everyday life and social conditions without idealization or exaggeration. It focuses on ordinary settings, characters, and events.

Example (*A Doll's House*): Ibsen's play is a realist drama that portrays the realities of marriage, financial struggles, and societal expectations in 19th-century Norway. Nora's struggles reflect real issues faced by women during that time, such as financial dependence on their husbands and lack of autonomy. **OR**

- **Realism:** is a literary movement that represents reality by portraying mundane, everyday experiences as they are in real life. It depicts familiar people, places, and stories, primarily about the middle and lower classes of society. **OR**

- **Realism:** Realism in literature is a literary movement that seeks to portray everyday life, experiences, and characters in a realistic and faithful manner. It emphasizes an accurate representation of reality, often focusing on the mundane aspects of human existence. Realist works aim to depict characters, settings, and events in a way that reflects the complexities and nuances of the real world.

19. Repetition:

Definition: Repetition is the repeated use of words, phrases, or ideas in a literary work to emphasize meaning or create rhythm. It can also reinforce themes or build emotional intensity. **OR - • Repetition:** repeating the same word in different lines in the poem.

Example 1 (*"Harlem"*): Hughes repeats "Does it..." at the beginning of several lines to emphasize uncertainty about deferred dreams. This repetition builds tension while reinforcing the central theme.

Example 2 (*"In an Artist's Studio"*): Rossetti uses repetition in "One face looks out from all his canvases" and "One selfsame figure sits or walks or leans" to emphasize how the artist continuously depicts the same idealized image of the woman. The repeated phrase "Not as she is, but..." reinforces the contrast between reality and the artist's dreamlike vision of his muse.

20. Rhyme Scheme:

Definition: Rhyme scheme refers to the pattern of rhymes used in a poem, often marked by letters (e.g., ABAB). It helps create structure and musicality in poetry.

Example (*"In an Artist's Studio"*): Rossetti's poem follows a structured rhyme scheme typical of sonnets (ABBA ABBA CDCDCD), which contrasts with its critique of artistic obsession, adding elegance to its message.

21. Rhythm:

Definition: Rhythm refers to the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in language, creating flow and musicality in poetry or prose. It can evoke emotions or emphasize meaning

Example 1 (“Harlem”): Langston Hughes’ “Harlem” employs rhythmic elements despite being written in free verse. While the poem lacks a consistent meter, it opens with a line in iambic tetrameter (“What happens to a dream deferred?”), establishing a rhythmic pulse that contrasts with the irregular lines that follow.

22. Speaker:

Definition: The speaker is the voice or persona delivering the words in a poem or narrative. The speaker may be distinct from the author and represent a specific perspective or character.

Example 1 (“Harlem”): In Hughes’ poem, the speaker represents a collective voice expressing frustration about racial inequality and unfulfilled dreams. This voice speaks on behalf of those whose aspirations have been deferred by systemic oppression.

Example 2 (“In an Artist’s Studio”): The speaker in Rossetti’s poem critiques the artist’s fixation on his muse from an external perspective while reflecting on her lack of identity.

OR

• **Speaker:** it refers to the voice of the poem, the character who speaks. The speaker reveals his thoughts in the poem and helps to create the mood of the poem. In “In an Artist’s Studio”, the speaker is someone who has insight into the artist’s work and the woman who inspired it.

23. Stanza:

Definition: A stanza is a group of lines in poetry separated by blank spaces or indentation, functioning like paragraphs in prose to organize ideas or themes. Stanzas help structure poems for clarity and emphasis on specific ideas.

Example 1 (“In an Artist’s Studio”): “In an Artist’s Studio” by Christina Rossetti is structured as a Petrarchan sonnet, which typically consists of an octave (first eight lines) and a sestet (final six lines), rather than traditional stanzas. The poem follows this sonnet structure, dividing into two main sections:

the octave explores the artist’s obsession with his muse, and the sestet delves into the emotional and psychological implications of this fixation. **OR**

• **Stanza:** is a unit of poetry composed of lines that relate to a similar thought or topic, it is used to describe the main building block of a poem. It is like a paragraph in prose or a verse in a song. **EX....**

24. Symbolism:

Definition: Literary symbolism is when an object, color, character, or action in a story represents a deeper meaning beyond its literal role. Writers use symbols to convey complex ideas, emotions, or themes indirectly, adding layers of meaning for readers to interpret.

Example 1 (“Harlem”): In Hughes’ poem, “a raisin in the sun” symbolizes neglected dreams that have dried up over time due to lack of fulfillment or opportunity. Similarly, “a heavy load” symbolizes the emotional burden of deferred aspirations, while “explode” suggests the destructive consequences of prolonged frustration.

Example 2 (*A Doll’s House*): The door Nora exits through at the end symbolizes her escape from societal constraints and her pursuit of independence. This act of leaving represents liberation from traditional gender roles and societal expectations.

25. Tone:

Definition: Tone refers to the author’s attitude toward their subject matter, conveyed through word choice, imagery, and style. It shapes how readers interpret the narrative’s message or mood.

Example 1 (“Harlem”): The tone in Hughes’ poem is urgent and frustrated, emphasizing the need for immediate action against racial inequality through powerful imagery like “explode.” The rhetorical questions convey a sense of anger and impatience about deferred dreams.

Example 2 (“In an Artist’s Studio”): The tone in Rossetti’s poem is critical yet melancholic as it reflects on artistic exploitation while lamenting the muse’s loss of individuality. **OR**

• **Tone:** it refers to the overall mood or attitude of a piece of writing, speech, or other forms of expression. It conveys the author’s feelings or the atmosphere of the work, whether it’s serious, humorous, formal, or informal.

26. Tragedy:

Definition: Tragedy is a genre that typically ends in sorrow or disaster due to human flaws or fate, often evoking pity or fear in audiences while exploring profound themes like suffering or morality.

Example (*Romeo and Juliet*): The play ends in catastrophic loss as Romeo and Juliet’s deaths result from their impulsive love and familial strife. Their tragic deaths evoke pity for their youthful idealism and forces audiences to confront themes of fate, hatred, and the destructive consequences of human impulsivity. **OR**

• **Tragedy:** refers to a branch of drama that treats in a serious and dignified style the sorrowful or terrible events encountered or caused by a heroic individual. By extension the term may be applied to other literary works, such as the novel. Although the word tragedy is often used loosely to describe any sort of disaster or misfortune. **EX...**

27. ♥️ Tragic Hero:

Definition: A tragic hero is a protagonist who possesses noble qualities but has a fatal flaw that leads to their downfall within a tragedy. They often inspire pity or admiration from audiences.

Example (*Romeo and Juliet*): Romeo is a classic tragic hero—noble-born, passionate, and well-meaning, but his fatal flaw of impulsivity drives the tragedy. He hastily shifts devotion from Rosaline to Juliet, rashly kills Tybalt, and impulsively commits suicide upon misreading Juliet's "death." These actions, rooted in his impulsive nature, lead to his downfall while evoking empathy for his misguided love and loyalty. **OR**

♥️ **Tragic here:** is a central character who:

- 1• Has a **fatal flaw** (a weakness or mistake) that leads to their downfall. Nora's fatal flaw could be her naivety and unquestioning belief in the traditional roles of marriage. She sacrifices her own happiness and freedom for her husband, believing that he will protect her in return. Her decision to secretly forge her father's signature to save Torvald is another example of her flawed, desperate attempt to fulfill her role as a dutiful wife.
- 2• **Experiences a moment of realization** about their flaw or situation. Nora's tragic realization comes when she sees that Torvald cares more about his reputation than her sacrifices or their love. She says: "You have never loved me. You have only thought it pleasant to be in love with me." This moment leads to her decision to leave her husband and children, marking her ultimate transformation.
- 3• **Inspires pity and fear** in the audience because their downfall feels inevitable yet avoidable.

28. Figurative language: the use of figurative language features makes the message of the poem clearer, and they can express the poem more. **EX:**

• **Metaphor:** is a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true but helps explain an idea or make a comparison.

For example:

- A metaphor states that one thing is another thing.
- Metaphors are used in poetry, literature, and anytime someone wants to add some color to their language.

• **Simile:** is a figure of speech that compares two different things using the words as or like. **For example,** In Harlem, "Does it dry up like raisin in the sun."